

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00918 021612Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----021620Z 023504 /45  
O 021542Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7138

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS  
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI LEADERS  
FEB. 19-20, 1977

1. I WAS INFORMED BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS THIS MORNING THAT THE POSITION OF THE SAUDI FOREIGN OFFICE IS THAT ONLY ONE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA ON FEBRUARY 19-20 AND THAT IS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THE VISIT AS SCHEDULED WILL BE BRIEF, SAID MANSOURI, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT SUBJECT TO SAUDI ARABIA CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD, IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDING TO THE KING AND CROWN PRINCE THAT THE AVAILABLE TIME BE USED FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH A CONFERENCE TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS. PRINCE SAUD WILL RECOMMEND AGAINST DISCUSSIONS OF AMERICAN-SAUDI BILATERAL MATTERS. UNLESS WE OBJECT, THIS WOULD ELIMINATE DISCUSSION OF OIL, MILITARY MATTERS, BOYCOTTS, ETC.

2. I MADE SURE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SECRETARY'S PRINCIPAL AIM IS TO EVALUATE THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS SEEN BY SAUDI ARABIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES HE IS VISITING, AFTER WHICH WE WILL WORK WITH THEM TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF SUCH A MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST. MANSOURI UNDERSTOOD THAT FULLY.  
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3. PLEASE INFORM ME WHETHER THIS MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL AND WHETHER THERE ARE BILATERAL MATTERS YOU BELIEVE SHOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED. IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT MANSOURI WOULD PUT FORWARD SUCH A CLEAR STATEMENT OF SAUDI IDEA OF PROCEDURE WITHOUT SOME INDICATION THAT KING AND CROWN PRINCE WILL AGREE TO PROPOSAL TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO THIS ONE SUBJECT. WE HAVE

HEARD FROM CHIEF OF ROYAL SECRETARIAT THAT THERE WILL BE ONE  
LONG (POSSIBLY THREE-HOUR) SESSION WITH CROWN PRINCE LATE  
AFTERNOON/EVENING OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL, WITH NEXT MORNING  
OPEN FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION WITH FORMIN SAUD, IF THAT SEEMS  
DESIRABLE.  
PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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